(e) So far, there has been no retrenchment in any of the public sector enterprises which have been privatized through the process of disinvestment. Strategic disinvestments of public sector undertakings with transfer of management control to strategic partners do not normally affect the status of employment since the employees of the public sector undertakings continue to remain in employment even after disinvestments of the PSUs, subject to the agreements entered into between the Government and the strategic partners.

Eradication of Child Labour

2437. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to raise allocation for eradication of child labour during the current plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the comparative increase in allocation from the previous plan period;

(c) whether the targets of eradication of child labour in the country during the previous plan was achieved;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the present target of eradication of child labour during the current plan period and the effective steps taken to achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) In the Ninth Plan period the total allocation of funds for Child Labour Schemes was Rs. 249.60 Crore. A proposal for an enhanced allocation for the Tenth Plan has been made. The Planning Commission has not yet indicated the total provision of funds for the above Schemes for the Tenth Plan Period.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Labour has been implementing the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) for the rehabilitation of working children. The major objective under the Scheme is the rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work by linking them with the formal school system, after keeping them in special schools set up under the projects for a

maximum period of three years. An associated objective is the prevention of entry of children into work through awareness measures.

The process of monitoring the situation of mainstreaming commenced in 1998. According to the latest available information, about 1.40 lakh children have already been mainstreamed into the formal school system.

Unemployed Persons in Assam

2438. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the unemployed persons registered with the various employment exchanges in Assam as on the 30th April, 2002, employment exchange-wise;

(b) whether Government have any plans to solve the increasing unemployment problem day by day in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Details of the number of job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges in the State of Assam as on 30th April, 2002 are given in the enclosed Statement, (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The Tenth Plan will focus on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it will be one of the monitorable objectives for the 10th Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of the 10th Plan would lay emphasis on the rapid growth of those sectors which are likely to created high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discouraged growth of employment. Particular attention would be paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have a larged employment potential.